



Montana Immunization Program Newsletter

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Upcoming Events:

Adult NetConference Series

CDC and Maryland's Adult Immunization Coalition and State Immunization Program are hosting six, 1-hour webinar sessions on topics related to Vaccinating Adults during April and May. Pre-registration is required and continuing education credit is available. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

HPV Education Session

The American Indian Cancer Foundation and Wisconsin's Scenic Rivers Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) are hosting *HPV Education Session: Strategies for Working with the American Indian Population* on Thursday, June 1st from 11:00am-12:00pm (Mountain Time). Pre-register [HERE](#).

VFC Hot Topic

The June topic is **Clinics Tell All! Secrets to Increasing Immunization Coverage**. The June session will take place on June 27th at 12pm or June 29th at 7am. Read more about the session under the VFC Corner section!

Resources Page

12. Monthly VPD Counts

13. 2017 IZ Provider Series



Montana's 2017 CDC Childhood Immunization Champion

Kathryn Lysinger, MD, from Billings Clinic, Pediatrics Department in Billings, MT, has been named Montana's 2017 *CDC Childhood Immunization Champion* for her outstanding efforts to promote childhood immunization. The award honors those who are doing an exemplary job going above and beyond the call of duty to promote childhood immunizations or implement immunization practice improvements.

Dr. Lysinger serves as an immunization champion with families, coworkers, and the Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), supporting education and quality improvement activities. Dr. Lysinger takes great care to educate families about the importance of immunizations and makes strong vaccine recommendations. The clinic has participated in several quality improvement initiatives, including a study which evaluated clinic encounters and those patient's vaccination rates and the Montana Immunization Program's Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, and eXchange (AFIX) project. Using what she learned from the studies, Dr. Lysinger improved the coverage rates of two year olds within her practice by creating opportunities to vaccinate and recalling patients who were behind on immunizations.

Each year during [National Infant Immunization Week](#), CDC and the CDC Foundation honor health professionals and community leaders from around the country with the [CDC Childhood Immunization Champion awards](#). These awards acknowledge the outstanding efforts of those individuals who strive to ensure that children in their communities are fully immunized against 14 preventable diseases before the age of two.

General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization

On April 20, 2017, CDC released the *General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization*. This document replaces the 2011 General Recommendations on Immunization. The document is available online to allow ACIP to update the document more quickly, as needed. It can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/index.html>.

Be sure to save it in your "Favorites" to easily access the information. Continuing education credit will be available for this document soon. Please check the website for details.

If you would like to receive email notifications of updates to this document and other ACIP recommendations and guidelines, please sign up at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html>. The Get Email Updates sign up is in the left tool bar.

Partnering to Reach Underserved Populations Continues to Grow in Montana - BCBSMT Care Van

Since October 2014, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana (BCBSMT) has partnered with local public health jurisdictions to provide immunization clinic services to communities in Montana through the use of the BCBSMT Care Van.

During 2016 the Care Van traveled a record 18,000 miles, serving 2,705 people in 68 communities. There were 112 clinics in which 3,105 immunizations were administered. Pediatric immunizations accounted for 58% of the total administered.

The Care Van does not provide clinical care, but partners with local public health, including IHS/Tribal/Urban Indian clinics to provide vaccines at no or low cost. The Care Van provides a vehicle and staff to assist local public health in taking immunization clinics to underserved populations in their jurisdiction. For more information or to set up a Care Van event, please contact Bryan Haines at (406) 437-6198 or bryan_haines@bcbsmt.com.

Vaccine-Preventable Disease: The Forgotten Story available from Texas Children's Hospital

You may have noticed that this year's prizes for the Regional Workshop game were different from past years. This year we provided a book and posters as prizes and flyers in your presentation outline book from Texas Children's Hospital called ***Vaccine-Preventable Disease: The Forgotten Story***. The stories are from families who have dealt with the effects of vaccine-preventable diseases. The book, posters, and flyers are great to have in your clinic to share stories with your patients and/or parents/guardians from those who have been directly impacted by the diseases.

In addition to the book, posters, and flyers Texas Children's Hospital has videos, an online flip book, and unvaccinated patient guide. For more information or to order materials, please see the Texas Children's Hospital website at <https://www.tchorderprocessing.com/>.

Conversations to Improve Adult Immunization Rates Using Simple and Strong Recommendations

The American Academy of Family Physicians created three short videos to demonstrate how healthcare providers can use evidence based interventions to discuss immunizations with vaccine-hesitant patients. The videos focus on conversations with patients about influenza, zoster, and PCV13 and PPSV23 vaccines.

The best practice techniques demonstrated in the videos are:

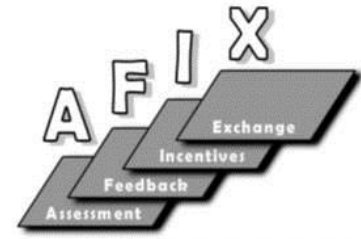
- Reflective listening
- Increasing patient knowledge
- Supporting patient autonomy

- Making a strong recommendation to educate patients on the importance of vaccines

Watch the videos here: <http://www.aafp.org/patient-care/public-health/immunizations/video.html>.

2017 AFIX Awards

Each year the Montana Immunization Program recognizes immunization providers for their work in ensuring their two year olds have received all the recommended vaccines. The Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, and eXchange (AFIX) Awards are presented to clinics in which 80% or 90% of their two year olds have received all vaccines and/or clinics which have improved significantly the number of two year olds who are fully vaccinated. Sixty-two clinics were reviewed in 2016 and 24 are being recognized for their achievements.



The clinics that achieved 90% or greater of their 24-35 month olds fully vaccinated are:

- Pondera County Health Dept, Conrad
- Dawson County Health Dept, Glendive

The clinics that achieved 80% or greater of their 24-35 month olds fully vaccinated are:

- Beartooth Billings Clinic Public Health, Red Lodge
- Butte/Silver Bow County Health Dept, Butte
- Liberty County Health Dept, Chester
- Marias Healthcare, Shelby
- Meagher County Health Dept, White Sulphur Springs
- Missoula Valley Pediatrics, Missoula
- Northern Cheyenne Public Health, Lame Deer
- Patrick J McGree, MD, PLLC, Butte
- Rocky Mountain Clinic, Butte
- Rosebud County Health Dept, Colstrip
- Toole County Health Dept, Shelby
- Valley County Health Dept, Glasgow

The clinics that achieved the greatest percentage point increase in their 24-35 month olds who are fully vaccinated (comparing 2014 to 2016) are:

- Beartooth Billings Clinic, Red Lodge
- Beartooth Billings Clinic Public Health, Red Lodge
- Butte/Silver Bow County Health Dept, Butte
- CPG – Parkside Community Family Care, Missoula
- Daniels County Health Dept, Scobey
- Eureka Health Prompt Care, Eureka
- Marias Healthcare, Shelby
- Meagher County Health Dept, White Sulphur Springs
- Pondera Medical Center, Conrad
- Toole County Health Dept, Shelby

For more information about AFIX project, coverage rates, and information about immunization quality improvement projects clinics are working on, please visit our webpage at <http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/Immunization/AFIX>.

Regional Workshop Recap

Thank you to our 400+ participants that attended the 2017 Immunization Regional Workshops. If you would like to view any of the presentation slides, please visit the Regional Workshop webpage and scroll to "2017 Regional Workshop Presentations": <http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/immunization/regionalworkshops>.

Vaccines In Practice

One of the presentations at the 2017 Regional Workshops was Immunization Case Studies. Below are the resources that were discussed during the presentation. The presentation slides can be found at: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/immunization/regionalworkshops>.

1. Vaccine Labels: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/storage/guide/vaccine-storage-labels.pdf>

2. HPV Algorithm: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/publichealth/documents/Immunization/2017/HPV%20algorithm.pdf>

3. PCV13 and PPSV23- The Pneumococcal Vaccine Timing Tool for Adults: <http://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-1152.pdf>

4. Job Aids (Scroll to the bottom of the page): <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/child-adolescent.html>

- Catch-Up Guidance Job Aids- CDC has developed job aids to assist healthcare providers in interpreting figure 2 in the Childhood/Adolescent immunization catch-up schedule.

1. Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) Catch-Up Guidance for Children 4 Months through 18 years of Age: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/job-aids/pneumococcal.pdf>

2. *Haemophilus Influenzae* type b-Containing Vaccines Catch-Up Guidance for Children 4 Months through 18 Years of Age

+ Hib Vaccine Products- ActHIB, Pentacel, MenHibRix, or Unknown:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/job-aids/hib-pedvax.pdf>

+ Hib Vaccine Products- Pedvax and Comvax Vaccine Only:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/job-aids/hib-acthib.pdf>

3. Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis- Containing Vaccines Catch-Up Guidance for Children 4 Months through 18 Years of Age:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/job-aids/dtap.pdf>



VFC Corner

Monthly VFC Hot Topics Webinars

When: Every other month, last Tuesday and Thursday of the month.

[Updated Hot Topics Schedule](#)

[Archived Presentations](#)

June Hot Topic- Clinics Tell All! Secrets to Increasing Immunization Coverage

The June Hot Topic will feature ten clinics sharing best practices on a quality improvement project implemented in their clinic. The clinics will share strategies, successes, and barriers about their projects. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions about the project, implementation process, and more! Please plan to join us.

Save the date!

- Tuesday, June 27th at 12pm
- Thursday, June 29th at 7 am

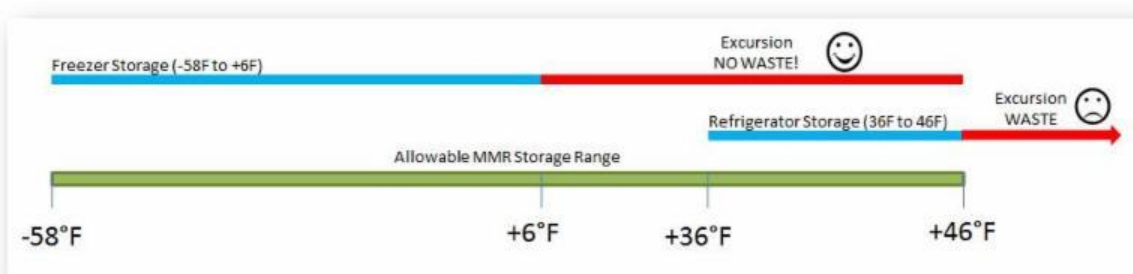
Please help us develop our VFC Hot Topics Webinar! If there is a subject you would like us to cover, please send to hhsiz@mt.gov

VFC Reminders

Protect your MMR – Store it in the Freezer

MMR II© from Merck has the most permissive storage temperature range of any US vaccine. At -58F to +46F (-50C to +8C), it can be stored in either the refrigerator or freezer. Yet oddly enough, MMR II is one of the VFC Program's most wasted vaccines. Why is that?

The answer lies in the fact that many facilities opt to store it in the refrigerator, which puts it very close to the upper limit of allowable temperatures. Unlike most refrigerated vaccines, MMR II© does not tolerate warm out-of-range temperatures. A brief, warm temperature excursion in your refrigerator (>46F) is likely to waste your MMR, even when all your other refrigerated vaccines are fine. Short, warm excursions in your freezer (>+6F), however, will not compromise your MMR because there is much more room for out-of-range temperatures before reaching the upper limit.



Protect your vaccine, get some piece of mind, and help reduce wastage in the VFC Program. Consider storing your MMR in the freezer.

For more information contact Lori Hutchinson at lhutchinson@mt.gov or 444-0277.

imMTrax Announcements

Interoperability – Data Exchange Update April 2017

In September 2015, the Montana Immunization Program received a grant from CDC for our Interoperability Project. We will be closing out the grant this summer, but wanted to highlight a few of our accomplishments.



- Developed 6 new interfaces, encompassing 29 clinics – several of which were not previously adding any immunization information to imMTrax.
- Currently 63 clinics are either testing or soon to be testing their interfaces. This includes Billings Clinic locations which are currently testing with hopes of advancing to a “live” status in 2017.
- Upgraded and/or converted 13 clinics to a more current method of transmitting data to imMTrax.
- Revised our Public Health Meaningful Use website and registration process.
- Created a new Montana HL7 Specifications Guide for 2.5.1 messaging.
- Standardized our process for onboarding new interfaces
- Completed a pilot project for automatic dose decrementing, which allows for imMTrax inventory to be decremented based on the HL7 interface messages.
- Currently finalizing procedures for future bi-directional query capabilities. We will be able to reply with not only a full history but also a forecast for vaccines due (if requested).
- Currently implementing new provider tools that can be used by authorized users to track messages and review data quality.

Whew! It has been a busy 20 months!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Immunization Program at (406) 444-5580.

Child Care and School Resources Page

Check out the new Child Care and School Resources webpage at:
<http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/Immunization/childcareandschoolresources>.

This webpage has information and resources for parents/guardians, child care and school staff, and healthcare providers. The webpage features immunization requirement information, frequently used forms, and resources for child care and school immunization requirements.

Monthly Vaccine-Preventable Disease Report

Table 1. Select Vaccine-Preventable Disease Counts by Jurisdiction of Residence- April 2017 and 2017 Year to Date

Select Vaccine Preventable Disease Case Counts by Jurisdiction of Residence, 2017	Haemophilus influenzae, invasive	Pertussis	Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive	Varicella (Chickenpox)
Jurisdiction				
BIG HORN			1	
CASCADE			3	1
CROW			1	1
FLATHEAD	1			
GALLATIN				1
LAKE			1	
LEWIS AND CLARK			1	
MISSOULA				3
PARK	1			
RAVALLI		2		
ROCKY BOY		2		
SILVER BOW	1			
VALLEY			1	
YELLOWSTONE	2		3	2
Total	5	4	11	8
2017 Year to date	10	4	31	19

April 2017

Four cases of pertussis were identified from two counties in April. Local public health investigations identified contacts to receive prophylaxis. In addition, four *Haemophilus influenzae* cases were reported; of those, one was serotype B. Eleven cases of invasive *Streptococcus pneumoniae* were reported from various counties. Sporadic cases of chickenpox were reported from Big Horn, Cascade, Gallatin, Missoula, and Yellowstone counties. Cases ranged from 1–36 years.

Table 2. Influenza Cases, Hospitalizations and Deaths

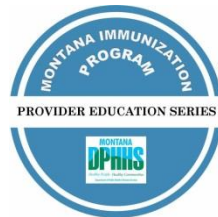
	Cases	Hospitalizations	Deaths
2016-2017 Season*	7723	786	23

*October 2, 2016- October 25, 2017

2016-2017 Influenza Season Update

Influenza activity declined dramatically during the month of April in Montana as well as the United States. To date this season 7723 cases, 786 hospitalizations, and 23 deaths have been reported in Montana. The predominant strain this season is Influenza A H3, but during March and April the majority of positive results were Influenza B, which is expected towards the end of the flu season.

Data retrieved from DPHHS. Questions? Contact CDEpi at (406) 444-0273.



2017 Immunization Provider Education Series

Immunization for Healthcare Personnel

Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 12:00pm
(Mountain Time)

Presented by Sue Sebazco, RN, MBA, CIC,
Infection Prevention Director for Texas
Health Arlington Memorial Hospital

This continuing nursing education activity was approved by the Montana Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

1.25 nursing contact hours for each webinar session.

Click [HERE](#) for webinar login information and additional details about the webinar series.

Archived Immunization Provider Education Series

The following webinar sessions are available to view one year from the date of the original presentation. The sessions are available on the MMA website at no cost. Nursing staff can receive 1.25 nursing contact hours for each session.

1. *Immunizations: Building Trust During the Time of Twitter* presented by Dr. Swanson from Seattle Children's Hospital- **Available until 06/10/2017**

2. *Prevention of Influenza in High-Risk Groups: What Are the Vaccine Options and Strategies?* presented by Dr. Poland from Mayo Clinic- **Available until 09/23/2017**

3. *HPV Immunization: Separating the Myths from Reality* presented by Dr. Erin Stevens from Billings Clinic- **Available until 11/21/2017**

4. *Applying Principles of Vaccination to Vaccine Administration Best Practices* presented by Donna Weaver, RN, MN from CDC- **Available until 02/06/2018**

5. *Strategies to Communicate with Vaccine*

Hesitant Parents presented by JoEllen Wolicki
BSN, RN from CDC- **Available until 03/28/2018**

6. Coming soon! *Adolescent Immunizations:
Give It a Shot* presented by Amy Middleman, MD,
MSEd, MPH University of Oklahoma Chief of
Adolescent Medicine

Montana Immunization Program | hhsiz@mt.gov | (406) 444-5580

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DPHHS | 1400 Broadway C-211, Helena, MT 59601

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